

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is requested. In the Office Action mailed January 25, 2005, Claims 1-10 were allowed. Claims 11-30 were rejected for lack of novelty over U.S. Patent No. 5,480,034 of Kobayashi.

In order to expedite prosecution of this application, Claims 11-20 have been canceled. Independent Claim 21 has been amended to require, in the final subparagraph thereof, "means for independently adjusting an angle of inclination of each disc screen section in order to improve the separation of materials deposited onto the disc screen." Support for this amendment is found on page 10, lines 10-11 of the specification, as originally filed. Kobayashi does not disclose, or suggest, classifying apparatus as set forth in amended independent Claim 21. Dependent Claim 23 has been amended to correct the typographical limitation therein. Dependent Claims 24 and 26 have been canceled since they are inconsistent with amended Claim 21.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 21-23, 25 and 27-30, and the allowance thereof, is requested.

The present application is in condition for allowance and notification to this effect is solicited. No additional fee is due at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Michael H. Jester, dated 3-1-05.

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